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Michigan Nurses Association Honors Local Senator

LANSING – Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, Majority Vice-Chairman of the Senate’s Standing Committee on Health Policy, has been selected to receive a coveted Legislative award. Mr. Tom Bissonnette, MS, RN, Executive Director of the Michigan Nurses Association, has advised Senator Patterson that he has been chosen to receive the Association’s 2004 ‘Friend of Nursing’ Award at the MNA’s Centennial Convention.

The ‘Friend of Nursing’ Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in advocating for and/or significantly advancing the practice of Registered Nursing in Michigan. In selecting Patterson, the Association pointed to a long list of his accomplishments while in office. Of particular emphasis was his introduction and advocacy of Senate Bill 1190.

SB 1190 is intended to ensure safe patient care by eliminating mandatory overtime under specific conditions, and by requiring that certain staffing levels be maintained relative to specific nursing duties. As such, it is seen to remove barriers that preclude nurses from fully practicing within their scope of practice and national certification.

Patterson observed that, “There definitely is a certain deep satisfaction in receiving such a high honor from such a venerable, well-respected Association. The Michigan Nurses Association is one of the very most highly regarded professional organizations known to exist. I know that there are more than 114,000 Registered Nurses currently licensed to practice in the state of Michigan and that they are held in especially high esteem throughout my Senate District. I am humbled by the award, and especially gratified by the fact that it is to be presented on the occasion of the Association’s 100th annual gathering.”

Patterson will be presented with the actual award on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2004, during the evening’s opening ceremony at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island. This marks the second health-related Legislator of the Year award presented to Senator Patterson this year. It is his fifth Legislator of the Year award of 2004.

(Persons interested in having more information are encouraged to contact Sen. Bruce Patterson by writing him at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909; by calling 517-373-7350; or by contacting MNA at 517-349-5640)

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